

### **Drought Watch in Effect – Residents Urged to Reduce Water Use by 15%**

OCTOBER 31, 2016 - Connecticut's Interagency Drought Workgroup, a collaboration of five state departments put together to track water trends and to advise the state on water usage issues, has issued a Drought Watch for Hartford County. The Workgroup has also requested that residents, businesses, and local governments voluntarily reduce their water use by approximately 15 percent. The Drought Watch supersedes a Drought Advisory previously in effect for Hartford County, under which residents, businesses, and local governments are asked to reduce usage by around 10 percent. The Interagency Drought Workgroup is comprised of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and the Office of Policy and Management.

A Drought Watch is issued when the state is experiencing moderate to severe drought conditions. Connecticut has experienced three cumulative months where precipitation was 65% below normal, groundwater has gone four to five consecutive months below normal and stream flow has been below normal for four out of five months. The Governor's Office has also noted that drinking water reservoirs have continued to decline, and average levels statewide were at less than 80 percent of normal as of the end of September, with some reservoirs less than half full.

For tips about how to conserve water, visit Aquarion Water Company's website at [www.aquarion.com](http://www.aquarion.com) , click on Connecticut and then on Conservation.